BENGALURU, SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2025 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 33 | Min 22 | Humidity 81% Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain Sensex 78,553 | Nifty 23,851 | Gold 98,580 | Silver 1,00,000 | Dollar 85.37 | Euro 97.01 | GBP 113.19

Dry as a bone

CITY PAGE 4

All eyes on this monsoon skies as despite good rainfall last year, 53 lakes of Bengaluru have completely dried up

Reel deal

CITY PAGE 5

Influencers disrupting public spaces in police radar. And obsessive reel watchers too are not doing themselves any favours

Only 1,500 of sanctioned 3,000 veterinary doctor posts in Karnataka are filled and there have been no new recruitments even as many are being shifted out to other departments

DEEP IN VET DEBT

Staff shortage has persisted for over a decade, say animal activists

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Karnataka is facing a growing crisis in its animal healthcare system as the number of practising veterinary doctors continues to decline, leaving large rural areas without timely medical attention for animals. In a state with significant agricultural and livestock reliance, this shortage is proving to be detrimental, not only to the welfare of animals but also to farmers and communities dependent on them.

According to data from 2023, Karnataka has only 4,786 practising veterinary doctors. As per sources, only 1,500 out of the sanctioned 3,000 doctor posts in Karnataka have been filled, leaving nearly 50% of the positions vacant.

There are over 2,000 vacant positions across various veterinary posts that remain unfilled. Activists and experts say that this staff shortage has persisted for over a decade.

Alarming cases highlight the gap

The shortage becomes even more troubling in the wake of recent incidents of animal harm. In one shocking case, crude explosives were reportedly used in a rural area, severely injuring grazing cows. With no veterinarian available in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

> **Farmers and low-income families can't afford private treatment. Government veterinary hospitals are their only hope, and even that is being taken away**
> — Arun Prasad, animal activist

BUTTERFLY EFFECT

Researchers find 105 species of butterflies flourishing on Bangalore University Campus

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As many as 105 species of butterflies are flourishing on the Bangalore University Campus (BUC).

Out of these, one is a near-threatened species listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), two are Schedule I species, six butterfly species belong to Schedule II, one is a Schedule IV species, and the rest are common species as defined under the Wildlife (Protection) Act.

The estimate has been made by researchers from the Department of Studies in Zoology, BUC.

According to Dr S Rajashekara, guest faculty at the Department of Zoology, as many as 10 sampling sites on the campus were analysed to explore the abundance of butterflies.

To understand the role of trees and other green cover in species richness of butterflies, researchers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Drift thrills

Get your adrenaline fix as Royal Enfield brings the Guerrilla 450 Drift and Drag experiences to life at the VROOM Drag Meet. Participants can test their skills and feel the rush of riding Royal Enfield's ultimate street machine — the Guerrilla 450. **Where: Taneja Aerospace and Aviation Limited, Hosur; When: April 19–20, 11.00 am to 6.00 pm**

02 Code crackle

Dive into innovation at Robofest — a one-day robotics exhibition and competition curated by Novatech Robo in collaboration with Lawrence Technological University, Michigan, and the University of West Florida. **Where: St Thomas Parish Mini Hall, S.G. Palya; When: April 26, 10.00 am to 5.00 pm**

03 Healing journey

Join a heart-opening Inner Child Connection workshop to explore joy, safety, and shared self-compassion in a warm, nurturing space. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: April 20, 11.00 am – 1.00 pm**

04 Art aid

Support paws with purpose at Bruno's Pet Friendly Café, where a heartfelt art exhibition raises funds for the care and treatment of community dogs. Every piece purchased helps animals, a rescued Staffy terrier, get the care and home they deserve. **Where: Bruno's Pet Friendly Café; When: April 15 – May 1, 9.00 am to 9.00 pm**

05 Art odyssey

E National Gallery of Modern Art is inaugurating an in-house curated exhibition 'Journeying the life experience through art: Amitabh Sengupta's Odyssey of six decades. **Where: National Gallery of Modern Art, Palace Road; When: April 25, 5 pm**

Karnataka among top plastic waste generators

Karnataka generated 3.6 lakh tonnes of plastic waste in 2022–23, making it the fifth-highest contributor in India, following Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Delhi, and Maharashtra in output

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Karnataka has emerged as one of the top five plastic waste generators in the country, producing 3,60,780.6 tonnes of plastic waste in the financial year 2022–23, according to the latest official data. The state ranks just behind Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Delhi, and Maharashtra in terms of plastic waste output.

Top plastic waste generators in 2022–23 (lakh tonnes)

Tamil Nadu	7.82
Telangana	5.28
Delhi	4.03
Maharashtra	3.95
Karnataka	3.60

According to data presented in the Rajya Sabha recently, India's plastic waste generation has continued to rise over the years, increasing from 33.6 lakh tonnes in 2018–19 to over 41.3 lakh tonnes in 2022–23. A dip in 2021–22 is attributed to pandemic-related disruptions. While Karnataka's plastic output is concerning, the trend mirrors a national surge, driven by increased consumption, packaging use, and weak enforcement of single-use plastic bans. Environmentalists argue that urban centres like Bengaluru are contributing disproportionately, with packaging, e-commerce, and fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) being major contributors.

Plastic waste clogs a river in Karnataka — a growing sign of India's mounting plastic crisis.

> **"Karnataka needs to move from symbolic bans to systemic change. Without it, we are just piling up heaps of hazard"**
> – Shruti N, civic activist

"Despite several awareness campaigns and regulations, there has been no significant behavioural shift among industries or consumers. Karnataka's numbers prove that we are consuming more than we can sustainably manage. While the Swachh Bharat Mission emphasises sustainable development, data reveals a significant gap between policy and ground reality. Karnataka's civic agencies, like the BBMP, have repeatedly launched clean-up drives, but the lack of robust recycling infrastructure and public participation continues to hamper progress," said Shruti N, a civic activist.

What lies ahead

Experts call for better enforcement of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) rules, investment in plastic alternatives, and urban micro-waste management solutions. For Karnataka, the path forward lies in empowering local bodies with decentralised waste systems and promoting circular economy models. "Karnataka needs to move from symbolic bans to systemic change. Without it, we are just piling up heaps of hazard," Shruti added.

Tomato glut brings pain to farmers

While Bengalureans enjoy rock-bottom tomato prices, the glut has spelled disaster for farmers across Karnataka. Despite a bumper harvest, market rates have crashed, pushing growers into severe financial distress. With little to no demand, tomatoes are being dumped or fed to cattle in several districts, highlighting a deepening crisis in the agricultural supply chain.

Tomato farmers across Karnataka are grappling with a steep price crash, with rates plummeting to as low as ₹2 per kg in Kalaburagi and ₹8–₹10 in Bagalkot, while districts like Uttara Kannada and Ballari are seeing prices hover around ₹10 per kg. In Koppal, tomatoes grown over 40 hectares are fetching only ₹15 per kg, and even in Hospet, where 1,500 hectares are under cultivation, prices have stagnated at ₹500–₹600 per crate for months. Raichur, too, is witnessing distress sales at ₹3–₹6 per kg. With production far outweighing demand and harvesting costs becoming unrecoverable, farmers across these regions are being forced to sell at heavy losses or abandon their produce altogether. Hence, farmers across the state are urging the government to intervene with a support price mechanism or procurement drive to avoid further losses and wastage of produce.

— BMB

Andromeda Sports Day ends on a high

The 4th season of Andromeda Sports Day – 2025 concluded on April 17 with a thrilling cricket final at St John's Medical College Grounds, where Andromeda Bulls, led by Karthik Shetty, emerged champions after a competitive match against Andromeda Strikers. Daniel Arun was named Player of the Match, while Dhanu was awarded Player of the Series. The event was attended by Vinod Nair, Raghavendra Kunder, Vinay Pandavapura, Daniel Arun, Karthik Shetty, Punith Kunder, and Arun Naidu from Team Andromeda, along with Ravi Shankar, Sudhanshu, Parashuramu, Vidhya, Lokesh, Muttumani, and Gowtham from Sundaram Home Finance. — BMB

Academic excellence celebrated at CIT Merit Awards

Cambridge Institute of Technology (CIT) recognised its first autonomous batch of students for academic excellence at the 'Merit Award'. The event was graced by Dr V K Aatre, Padma Vibhushan awardee and Former Director of DRDO. Students from both UG and PG were honoured for their achievements. In keynote, Prof Aatre spoke about India's potential to become a global manufacturing hub and stressed the importance of self-reliance. He encouraged students to cultivate "purpose, passion, and perseverance" to succeed personally and professionally. The awards were presented in three categories: Shri D K Mohan Awards for the top 10 percent CGPA, presented by Prof Aatre; CIT Merit Awards for students with a CGPA of 9 or above, presented by DK Mohan; and special recognition for students with consistent academic performance. DK Mohan advised to acquire the right skills to meet market demands. Dr G Indumathi,

Principal of CIT, highlighted the institute's academic strengths, future growth, and career opportunities available to students.

— BMB

Good egg
Colourful Easter eggs are on display at a bakery at Frazer Town

Unidentified bodies, grim trend on B'luru rail tracks

Unnatural deaths continue to occur along railway tracks, with 52 cases reported in past 3 months; safety issues, including easy access to tracks, contribute to ongoing fatalities

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Two unidentified bodies were recently found near Chikkabanavara and Soladevanahalli in separate incidents. Unnatural deaths along Bengaluru's railway tracks continue to be reported regularly, highlighting a persistent issue in the city. Over the past three months, 52 such cases have been reported. For the past three years, the city has averaged 16 unnatural deaths per month, which equates to one death every two days.

So far in 2024, a total of 195 unnatural death cases have been recorded, slightly surpassing the 193 deaths reported in the entire year of 2023. When asked to confirm the recent cases, Superintendent of Police (Railways), Bengaluru, Dr Soumyalatha SK, revealed that railway police stations across the city consistently register an average of 7 to 8 unnatural death reports every single day. These reports typically include a combination of both accidental deaths, often involving individuals being hit by trains and cases of suicide occurring along railway tracks.

One of the bodies, discovered in Chikkabanavara, is believed to be that of a man around 40 years old. Railway Police officials suspect that he may have died in an accident and have registered a case under the Unnatural Death Report (UDR) category. Further investigation is underway to determine the exact cause and circumstances surrounding the death.

From 2020 to 2022, Karnataka recorded 3,768 bodies recovered from tracks

On the same day, another body, that of a man estimated to be in his 50s, was found under mysterious circumstances. The Yeshwantpur Railway Police rushed to the spot to examine the area. Preliminary observations led officers to suspect foul play, as it appeared that the man may have been murdered elsewhere and the body dumped near the tracks to mislead investigators. A case has been registered at the Yeshwantpur Railway Police Station, and officials are currently verifying CCTV footage from nearby areas and investigating in hopes of tracing the suspects or identifying the deceased.

These back-to-back cases highlight the vulnerabilities and safety challenges around Bengaluru's railway tracks, where both accidental and suspicious deaths continue to be reported with worrying frequency. Over a broader three-year span from 2020 to 2022, Karnataka saw a staggering 3,768 bodies recovered from railway tracks. While some of these were due to accidental falls or trespassing, a significant number were suspected suicides. Of these, 1,074 bodies were cremated as unidentified, highlighting the challenges involved in tracing their families or next of kin.

Speaking about the causes of accidents, a police official explained, "The concern is the fact that some of these fatalities occur near level crossings and pedestrian shortcuts, where safety infrastructure like overbridges, fencing, or warning signals is ignored. The easy accessibility of the tracks, especially in urban and semi-urban belts, further elevates the risk for unsuspecting or desperate individuals."

The Railway Police have pinpointed 78 railway stations and 33 track stretches in Bengaluru and surrounding areas as black spots — zones particularly prone to fatal incidents.

Rikki Rai injured in gun attack

In a late-night incident, Rikki Rai, son of Muttappa Rai, was severely injured in a gunfire attack near his residence in Bidadi. The incident occurred around 12:50 am on Saturday, as Rai was leaving for Bengaluru along with his driver and a bodyguard.

According to the complaint filed by his long-time driver at a local police station, the trio had initially left Rai's Sadashivanagar residence at 6:00 pm on Friday and reached the Bidadi guest house by 7:30 pm. Around 11:00 pm, they left for Bengaluru but returned shortly after Rai realised he had forgotten his purse.

As they exited the Bidadi house for the second time, gunshots were fired at their vehicle. The driver narrowly escaped, but Rikki Rai suffered severe injuries to his nose and right arm. The driver rushed him to Bharat Kempanna Hospital, where he was stabilised and then referred to Manipal Hospital for further treatment.

Before losing consciousness, Rai allegedly named Rakesh Malli, Anuradha, Nitesh Shetty and Vaidyanathan as suspects, claiming they had long-standing enmity with his family. The complaint also mentioned previous threats and mental harassment faced by Rai from the same individuals.

Police have taken the complaint seriously and initiated an investigation. No arrests have been made yet. Rikki Rai remains under observation at Manipal Hospital, while police officials are investigating.

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53 lakes dry up as city waits for monsoon relief

Despite good 2024 rainfall, Bengaluru faces a worsening water crisis with only 35% lake storage and widespread borewell failures across city zones

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Despite receiving good rainfall in 2024, Bengaluru is already feeling the summer heat, with 53 lakes having completely dried up. Attention now turns to the 2025 monsoon to revive these critical water bodies. Meanwhile, several other lakes are seeing a sharp drop in water levels, raising concerns over depleting groundwater and the growing threat to the city's future water security.

Until November last year, Bengaluru received good rainfall, leaving most lakes nearly full. However, by early summer this year, many resemble dry playgrounds. According to BBMP sources, of the 202 lakes under its jurisdiction, 183 are considered active, but 53 have completely dried up due to intense heat. Water levels in the remaining 130 lakes have also dropped sharply, bringing the overall storage capacity down to just 40%.

As of April 5, the total water-holding capacity of BBMP lakes should have been 31,505.48 million litres, but only 10,980.01 million litres have been stored — merely 35% of the expected volume, BBMP officials confirmed.

A BBMP official said, "Groundwater-dependent areas are particularly affected due to inadequate rainfall in the pre-summer months. It is estimated that around 3 lakh borewells have dried up. Last year, starting mid-February, the city experienced a severe heatwave that caused 75% of open wells to run dry. Although rains returned by May and rejuvenated many water bodies, this year, despite good rainfall in 2023, nearly 40% of borewells have already dried up at the onset of summer." Environmentalists attribute the crisis to the lack of effective rainwater harvesting and the failure to desilt lakes—both essential for improving rainwater retention.

Regional breakdown of water levels

The situation varies across city zones, but the overall trend remains grim. In RR Nagar Zone, 12 of 33 lakes have dried up, with only 393.59 million litres remaining out of a total capacity of 3,032.31 million litres, and over 150 borewells around Ullal Lake have gone dry. Dasarahalli Zone has seen 6 of its 12 lakes run dry, leaving just 140.62 million litres out of 1,740.31 million litres. In the South Zone, 911.56 million litres remain from a total capacity of 1,339.26 million litres across 7 lakes. East Zone has lost 2 of its 5 lakes, while the remaining hold 2,725.10 million litres out of 4,882 million litres. West Zone, with just 2 lakes, retains 351.07 million litres from a total of 453.12 million litres. Mahadevapura Zone is the worst hit, with 19 of 50 lakes dried up and only 2,110.43 million litres remaining from a capacity of 9,493.35 million litres. Yelahanka Zone has lost 12 of its 27 lakes, with 4,276.61 million litres left out of 9,214.08 million litres. Bommanahalli Zone has lost 2 of 44 lakes, leaving 2,725.10 million litres from a total of 4,882 million litres. The alarming situation calls for urgent efforts in lake rejuvenation, rainwater harvesting, and community-driven water conservation ahead of the monsoon.

> **"Groundwater-dependent areas are particularly affected due to inadequate rainfall in the pre-summer months. It is estimated that around 3 lakh borewells have dried up** – BBMP official

Over 2,000 vet posts unfilled in Karnataka

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the vicinity, help was delayed for hours. Such cases, activists argue, would have seen quicker response and better treatment outcomes if doctors were posted consistently across regions. There are nearly 2,000 unfilled vacancies across various positions in Karnataka's veterinary services including veterinary doctors, inspectors, para-vets, and Group D staff. The situation has only worsened over the years, with no fresh recruitments being made to address the growing shortage. Many veterinary doctors are either retiring or being deputed to other departments, such as the BBMP, leaving hospitals severely understaffed.

As a result, 23 government veterinary hospitals across the state have been shut down. "This is not just a staffing problem, there's a deliberate move to weaken public veterinary services. Doctors are being silently shifted to BBMP roles, and no effort is being made to recruit replacements," said Arun Prasad, an animal activist.

He further pointed out that with hospitals shutting down and no new ones coming up, people in rural and semi-urban areas are left with no option but to depend on expensive private clinics. "Farmers and low-income families can't afford private treatment. Government veterinary hospitals are their only hope, and even that is being taken away," he added.

Call for urgent reforms

Farmers, particularly in districts like Kalaburagi, Ballari, and Chikkamagaluru, say they often have to travel tens of kilometres to find a functioning veterinary hospital, only to be turned away or told the doctor is on deputation or leave.

Animal rights groups are demanding the state government to immediately fill vacant veterinary posts by recruiting which has not been done for years. With a rising number of animal cruelty incidents, including those involving illegal breeding, smuggling, and abandonment, the role of veterinarians has become more critical than ever.

Seven-member cabinet sub-committee constituted to look into BMIC project

Karnataka government has constituted a seven-member cabinet sub-committee headed by Home Minister G Parameshwara to review the progress made so far in the implementation of the Bengaluru-Mysuru Infrastructure Corridor (BMIC) project, and to make appropriate recommendations regarding the steps to be taken in the future.

The other members of the committee are Ministers -- HK Patil, KH Muniyappa, M B Patil, HC Mahadevappa, Satish Jarkiholi, and Krishna Byre Gowda.

The cabinet last week had authorised Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to constitute the sub-committee.

"This Cabinet Sub-Committee shall consult with legal experts and subject matter experts and submit its report within 2 months on the action to be taken legally," an official note said, adding that the Public Works Department shall provide necessary assistance to the committee.

Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprise (NICE) has been accused of violating the framework agreement with the government while implementing the project, official sources said. – PTI

The cabinet last week had authorised Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to constitute the sub-committee

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Obstruction alert

Dickenson Road

A stall abandoned near RBANMS Grounds on Dickenson Road has turned into an eyesore and is causing traffic obstruction.

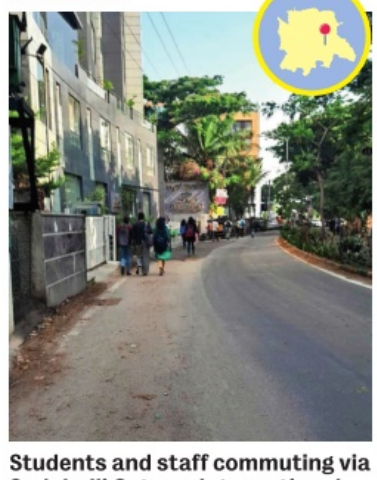
Parking woes

Jayanagar

A hospital under construction at the corner of 40th Cross in Jayanagar 5th Block lacks basement parking, leaving no space for staff or visitors. Concerned residents are questioning the approved plan and how the building will obtain an occupancy certificate.

Pedestrian risk

Sadahalli



Students and staff commuting via Sadahalli Gate on International Airport Road in Bengaluru face serious safety risks due to inadequate pedestrian infrastructure.

THE SUNDAY READ

Like, share, arrest

Influencers are facing fines and arrests for reckless stunts, as authorities crack down on viral content disrupting public spaces

In the race to go viral, some social media influencers are pushing the limits of public decency and safety, and now finding themselves on the wrong side of the law. From sipping tea in the middle of a busy road to eating snacks on the Metro, these attempts to gather likes and views are increasingly ending with police cases and fines. Here's a look at how reel-making has become a real headache for the authorities.

1. Tea time turned trouble

In the latest incident, a tempo driver named Prashanth, alias Simbu, decided to turn a public road near SG Park into his film set. He placed a chair in the middle of the street, sipped tea, and filmed a reel, completely blocking traffic. Police at SJ Park station arrested him for obstruction and later released him on station bail, warning of stricter action for repeat offences. Prashanth, who drives a tempo for a living, now faces real-life consequences for his online theatrics.

2. Loud on the metro, louder online

Another attention-seeker, 27-year-old Kumar, a regular disruptor on Namma Metro trains, recently faced legal heat. Known for shouting dramatically to his mother over the phone while capturing commuters' shocked reactions, his video finally caught the eye of BMRCL (Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited) officials. The clip prompted BMRCL to track his online activity, leading to a police complaint. He was later identified through social media posts that showed his two-wheeler's registration number. Both Kumar and his mother had to visit the Upparpet police station to offer apologies.

3. Metro meals and misconduct

Sunil Kumar, an employee at a jewellery store, was fined after a video of him eating gobi manchurian on a metro train went viral. The video, captured by his friends, led to a non-cognizable report being filed. The incident wasn't isolated—another influencer was warned after posting a reel that demonstrated how to enter the metro without buying a ticket.

4. Sneaking for views

International influencer Fidias Panayiotou also found himself in hot water after posting a video titled "How To Sneak Into The Indian Metro". In it, he boasts about entering the metro station without a ticket, challenging commuters on whether they believed he could pull it off. The video sparked widespread criticism and scrutiny over such reckless content creation.

Psychiatrists say that as the digital race for attention intensifies, influencers are blurring the line between creativity and chaos. With police and civic authorities tightening the leash, the real question is—will content creators learn their lesson, or will chasing views continue to lead them straight into custody?

"To combat rise of risky Instagram reels, police are leveraging social media platforms to raise awareness, educate public, and enforce traffic laws, as many young people post videos flaunting traffic rules for likes & views

Police reel in stunters

In a bid to counter the growing trend of dangerous Instagram reels, the Bengaluru police have taken to social media themselves, using the same medium to raise awareness and enforce the law. Many youngsters have been posting videos flaunting traffic rules for likes and views. One such video showed a youth performing a reckless wheelie on the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway, assuming he'd escape unnoticed. Instead, the viral reel led to swift police action. The boy was tracked down and brought to the station—his viral moment turned into a lesson. The police posted a witty response reel, even featuring a popular dialogue by Kannada star Yash, to drive home the message.

"Despite our repeated warnings, people continue making risky content on roads," a senior officer said. "So, we've decided to fight fire with fire—using reels to educate and warn."

A dedicated police social media team now monitors platforms for traffic violations. Recording stunts while riding, especially without helmets or with extra passengers, invites hefty fines, some as high as ₹7,500. The cops use vehicle numbers to trace violators. Officers warn that this obsession with viral fame is endangering lives and urge content creators to act responsibly before it's too late.

Are reels ruining our eyes?

Doctors and eye specialists are raising alarms over a growing vision crisis being dubbed 'Reel Vision Syndrome', attributed to the excessive viewing of short-form video content like Instagram and YouTube reels, particularly among children and young adults. The condition is being triggered by a potent mix of artificial lighting, rapid visual transitions, and prolonged screen time, which is overstimulating the eyes and disrupting normal visual function.

Alarming health consequences

There has been a sharp increase in cases of dry eye syndrome, progressive myopia (nearsightedness), eye strain, and even early-onset squinting in children who are spending several hours a day glued to reels. "Children are particularly at risk as their eyes are still developing. Early myopia is progressing at an accelerated pace and, in many cases, is leading to long-term vision issues," said a city-based ophthalmologist. One major cause is the drastic reduction in blinking rates, by as much as 50%, during screen use, leading to dry-eye syndrome and accommodation spasms, which make it difficult to shift focus between nearby and distant objects.

Adults also affected

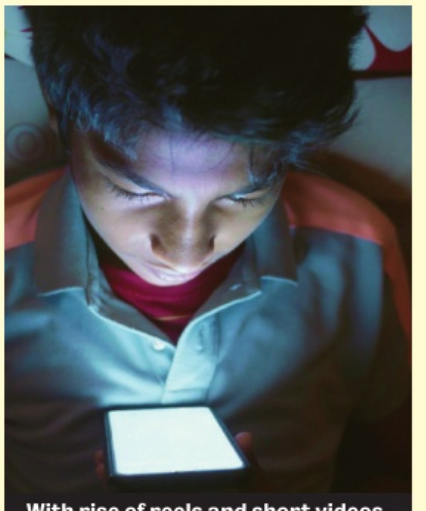
The impact isn't limited to kids. Adults, too, are reporting frequent headaches, migraines, and disrupted sleep patterns due to excessive exposure to blue light emitted by digital screens.

"The human visual system isn't designed for such intense, short-attention-span content consumption. This level of screen fixation is creating chronic visual fatigue," said a neuro-ophthalmologist.

Looming global crisis

Studies suggest a worrying trend: by 2050, more than 50% of the world's population is expected to be myopic. If left unchecked, this could become a leading cause of irreversible blindness in the coming decades. Health experts are urging parents to limit children's screen time, encourage regular breaks, and promote outdoor activities to mitigate the risk.

With the popularity of reels and short videos showing no signs of slowing down, 'Reel Vision Syndrome' could become one of the defining health challenges of the digital age.



With rise of reels and short videos, 'Reel Vision Syndrome' may become a key health challenge

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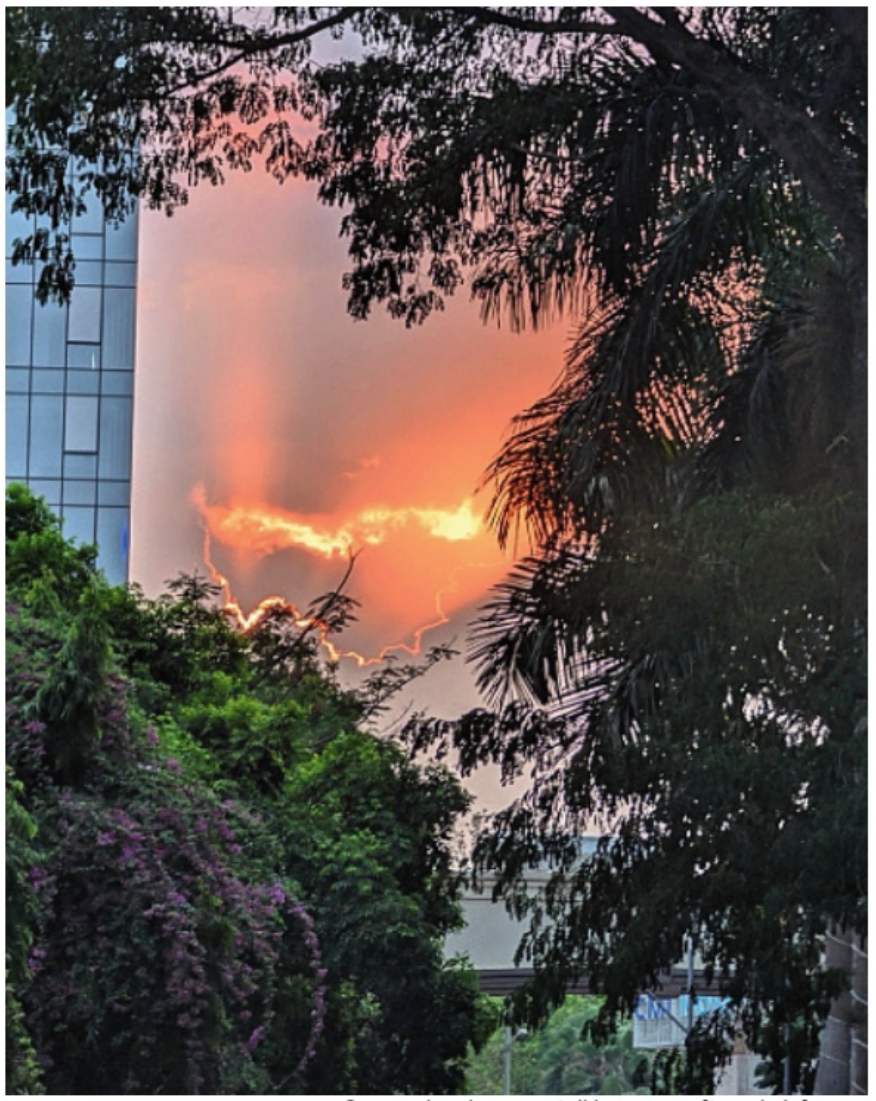
BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

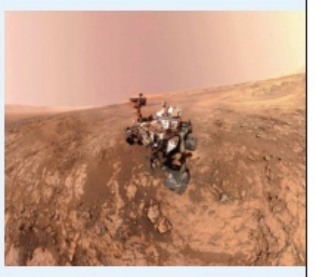


GOLDEN CLOUD MOMENT Our reader shares a striking scene after a brief shower, where a cloud, glowing with golden hues, dazzles in the sky. "Every cloud may have a silver lining, but this one surely shines in gold," they write, having captured the breath-taking moment.

The picture was clicked by BM reader **Sargam**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

DID YOU KNOW?



NASA's Curiosity rover has discovered a mineral called siderite in rock samples from Mars' Gale crater, offering new evidence of the planet's warmer, wetter past. Found in 2022 and 2023, siderite is an iron carbonate mineral that forms in the presence of carbon dioxide and water. Its presence in 3.5-billion-year-old sedimentary rocks suggests Mars once had a thick, CO_2-rich atmosphere capable of sustaining liquid water potentially supporting microbial life. Until now, there's been little evidence of carbonate minerals on Mars, despite models predicting their abundance. The new findings show up to 10.5% siderite by weight in drilled samples, supporting the idea that ancient CO_2 became trapped in the crust through geochemical processes. Scientists believe this discovery helps explain Mars' transition from a habitable world to the barren planet seen today. Unlike Earth, which recycles carbon through plate tectonics, Mars appears to have permanently sequestered much of its carbon, leading to an imbalanced carbon cycle and a dramatic climate shift. The study, published in Science, reshapes our understanding of Mars' lost habitability.

— Reuters

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

Jakkur's traffic woes deepen amid delayed civic work

Yashaswini Krishna
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Narrow and bad road condition around the railway crossing that sees multiple school buses and cabs of MNCs

Six months since white-topping work began on a key stretch in Jakkur, residents continue to grapple with a maze of dug-up roads, mismanaged traffic, and growing safety concerns near a long-abandoned railway bridge. Despite multiple interventions, the situation has only worsened, with no clarity on timelines or accountability. The affected stretch approximately half a kilometre-long houses at least three major schools and lies adjacent to Jakkur Lake and the railway track. What should have been a smoother commute has now turned into a dangerous bottleneck. School buses, tankers, and local traffic are all crammed into a narrowing road that barely allows two-way movement.

The railway gate at the junction has become a flashpoint for daily chaos. Due to poor planning and absence of traffic regulation, vehicles often get stuck trying to take sharp turns at the gate, especially heavy trucks and tankers. In many instances, these vehicles end up blocking the railway track, leaving school buses stranded dangerously as the gates begin to close.

"One day, we saw a fully loaded school bus stuck on the track while a tanker driver refused to reverse. The railway gate operator was pleading, but the driver even dared him to shut the gate," said a resident, recalling a harrowing moment that could have turned tragic.

Locals point to a broader failure of coordination among agencies. While pipes for utilities remain lined up by the roadside, the roads have been dug up multiple times without completion of work, hinting at poor planning. This has left residents dealing with not just bad roads but also unwalkable footpaths and debris-filled shoulders.

A stretch of road running parallel to the railway track and Jakkur Lake has unofficially turned into a garbage and debris dumping zone. Ironically, this deterioration comes after an increase in the garbage cess. "Instead of seeing cleaner roads, we now walk past mounds of trash every morning. It's disheartening," said another local, frustrated with the inaction.

Further complicating the area's traffic woes is the Raithra Santhe, a weekend farmers' market. Poorly managed parking and zero enforcement by traffic authorities often turn the surrounding roads into gridlocked messes. While the santhe is a popular attraction, locals say it's time authorities ensured it doesn't come at the cost of public safety.

At the heart of this issue lies an 11-year-old incomplete railway bridge that was meant to resolve precisely these connectivity problems. But year after year, the bridge remains untouched, with officials citing logistical or budgetary issues.

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Trump exaggerates revenue from tariffs

Trump-Tariffs-Fact-Focus - President Donald Trump is claiming that tariffs on imported goods are bringing in billions of dollars a day — $2 billion to be exact. President Donald Trump makes no secret of his love of tariffs. He heralds them as a way of bringing in revenue, striking back at countries he sees as taking advantage of the U.S. in trade, and as a cudgel to push countries to do what he wants. Even Canada and Mexico have been handed heavy taxes.

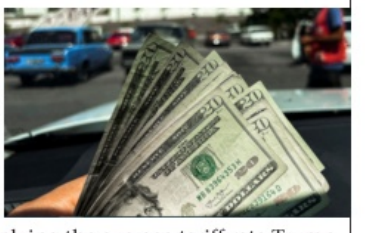
On April 2, Trump announced far-reaching new tariffs on nearly all trading partners, only to roll most of them back on April 9 after the stock market tanked.

Still, he claims that tariffs, a tax on imported goods, are bringing in billions of dollars a day. On April 8, speaking at the National Republican Congressional Committee Dinner, he said, "We're making a fortune with tariffs. $2 billion a day. Do you believe it? I was told $2 billion a day."

Claim: The U.S. is earning $2 billion per day from tariffs. **The Facts:** That's false. Trump began raising tariffs in February. That month, about $7.247 billion in customs duties were collected, or $258.82 million per day. In March, the most recent monthly figure available, a total of about $8.168 billion in customs duties was collected, or approximately $263.48 million per day. A customs duty is a type of tariff. U.S. Customs and Border Protection said in an April 8 statement that as a result of 13 tariff-related presidential actions taken by Trump, it was collecting each day "over $200 million in additional associated revenue." The agency is responsible for collecting tariffs.

Those numbers are in line with what the U.S. has taken in thus far during fiscal year 2025, which started Oct. 1 under the Biden administration. According to the latest Treasury Department numbers, $56.215 billion in customs duties and certain excise taxes have been collected, or $283.91 if broken out per day. An excise tax is also a type of tariff. The U.S. has collected approximately $3.076 billion in customs and certain excise taxes so far this month, coming out to about $180.94 million per day, according to the Treasury Department's data.

Economists suggest that Trump's number is likely based on the value of imported goods from fiscal year 2024, disregarding the impact higher tariffs will have on supply and demand. "It's almost certainly the case that we're collecting less than that," said Robert Johnson, an associate professor of economics at the University of Notre Dame, of Trump's $2 billion per day figure.



The U.S. took in about $3.3 trillion worth of goods in fiscal year 2024, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Applying the average tariff rate Trump announced on April 2 — 20% — to that figure comes out to $660 trillion worth of goods. That's roughly $1.8 billion of revenue per day. But, economists note, this calculation does not account for behavioral changes. For example, if tariffs increase and make a product less profitable, importers may cease importing it altogether. And if consumers face higher prices due to increased tariffs, they may choose not to buy certain items.

"That's the most optimistic scenario, because that won't happen," said Felix Tintelnot, an associate professor of economics at Duke University, of Trump's $2 billion figure. "You can't do a calculation of expected tariff revenue off past trade flows and then multiply with it a currently applied tariff and expect that the past trade flow remains the same." Ryan Monarch, an assistant professor at Syracuse University, agreed noting,"it's a very bad assumption that purchases are unchanged".

— AP

Fructose in processed foods silently damaging young lives

Fatty liver cases rising in youth due to sugary diets, say experts

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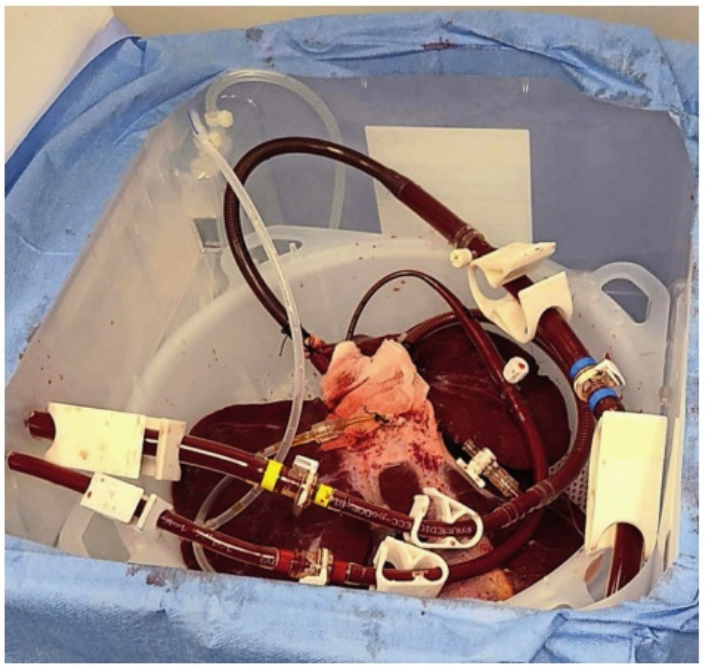
Experts are warning that the regular intake of sugar-loaded soft drinks, sweets, sauces, and baked goods, especially those containing added fructose, silently damages the liver. Fructose, a sugar molecule found in processed foods, is directly linked to non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), where fat accumulates in the liver even in the absence of alcohol consumption.

Gastroenterologists explain that the liver is responsible for metabolising fructose into fat through a process called lipogenesis. When fructose is consumed in excess, it overwhelms the liver, leading to the development of NAFLD. If left untreated, the condition can progress to non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), which causes inflammation and scarring, and can eventually result in cirrhosis or liver failure.

Signs and symptoms of fatty liver disease

Dr K Krishnamurthy, a general physician, noted that signs of NAFLD often go unnoticed in the early stages. "Common symptoms include tiredness, pain in the upper right abdomen, loss of appetite, and unintentional weight loss. In more advanced stages, patients might develop jaundice, swelling in the abdomen or legs, confusion, itchy skin, and visible small blood vessels on the skin. In severe cases, cirrhosis may develop," he said.

How can liver damage be prevented



Revived livers kept alive for transplant using perfusion technology

"Many cirrhosis cases today are linked to excess fructose consumption rather than alcohol. The concern lies with added sugars in processed foods and beverages

–Dr M Shashi Kumar

Dr M Shashi Kumar, a liver health expert, emphasised the importance of prevention through lifestyle choices. "Maintaining a healthy weight, eating a balanced diet with fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, and avoiding processed foods and sugary drinks are essential," he said. Regular physical activity, managing diabetes and cholesterol, and limiting alcohol intake are also key to protecting liver health. He added that many cases of cirrhosis today are no longer alcohol-related but are instead driven by excessive fructose consumption. While fructose is naturally found in fruits and honey, the real concern lies in added sugars found in processed foods and beverages—even those labelled 'sugar-free.'

Concerns increase in young populations

Alarmingly, fatty liver disease is increasingly being diagnosed in teenagers and children, a trend doctors attribute to sedentary lifestyles and the frequent consumption of processed and fast foods. The popularity of late-night meals, often ordered through food delivery apps, has further contributed to the rise in liver-related issues among younger populations.

Non-Alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD)

NAFLD typically affects individuals who are overweight or obese. While it may not cause immediate harm, if ignored, it can lead to severe liver damage. It also increases the risk of diabetes, high blood pressure, kidney disease, and heart problems, especially in people with pre-existing conditions like diabetes.

Diagnosis and treatment of NAFLD

Diagnosis often begins with a liver function test. Although there is currently no specific medication to cure NAFLD, lifestyle changes can significantly reduce fat in the liver and prevent disease progression. Managing related conditions such as diabetes and high cholesterol is equally important.

Symptoms of advanced liver damage

In later stages, particularly when NAFLD develops into NASH or cirrhosis, symptoms become more pronounced. Patients may experience persistent fatigue, dull pain in the upper right abdomen, unexplained weight loss, and swelling in the legs, feet, or abdomen. In such cases, regular exercise, strict dietary control, and alcohol reduction are crucial. For those with advanced cirrhosis, a liver transplant may be the only option.

Early detection and consistent management remain the best ways to tackle NAFLD and protect liver health.

FIR filed against CET official

An FIR has been filed against the CET exam conducting officer at Adichunchanagiri School in Sharavathinagara in Karnataka's Shivamogga district, following a controversy over reports that students appearing for the Karnataka Common Entrance Test (CET) were allegedly asked to remove their sacred thread (Janeu), police said on Friday.

The complaint, lodged by Nataraj Bhagavath, led to the FIR under sections 115(2), 299, 351(1), and 352, read with section 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. Authorities have begun investigating the incident to determine the circumstances under which students were reportedly asked to remove religious symbols.

Karnataka Higher Education Minister Dr MC Sudhakar called the incident "very unfortunate" and confirmed that a similar complaint was received from a centre in Bidar. He emphasised that the frisking guidelines did not include removing religious items and added, "We respect all religions, this is unacceptable, and action will be taken." The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA), which conducts the CET, has not yet released an official statement. **–BMB**

Caste census call soon

Amid growing discussions over the caste census in Karnataka, Home Minister G Parameshwara confirmed on Saturday that the final decision on the matter will be made by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah after thorough consultations with the cabinet.

Parameshwara emphasised that the decision would be a collective one. "All ministers have shared their opinions, and discussions are ongoing. The Chief Minister will decide after hearing everyone. It is not an individual decision," he told reporters. Defending the survey, he said, "After studying it myself, I found it to be a very scientific survey."

He added that the objective of the caste census is to assess the social, educational, and economic conditions of each community, aiming to better understand their status and needs across the state. **–BMB**

Tribal university dream rekindled in K'taka

Efforts underway to find 50-100 acres required to set up university

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Discussions are gaining momentum for the establishment of Karnataka's first Tribal Culture University, with Challakere in Chitradurga district being considered as the ideal location. The proposal, which has been a long-standing demand, is now being actively pursued, with state ministers and legislators from the Scheduled Tribes recently deliberating on the project. Efforts are underway to find the necessary land, with a requirement of 50 to 100 acres for the university's establishment.

While several states in India, including Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, have tribal culture universities, Karnataka currently only has research centres dedicated to tribal studies in places like Haveri, Hampi, and Mysuru. A full-fledged university, however, has remained elusive. According to sources, Chitradurga known for its rich history and vibrant tribal communities emerges as a natural choice. The district is home to several prominent tribal groups, including the Badagas, Kadu Golla, and Kurubas, who have a strong cultural presence in the region. Their oral literature, poetry, and traditions have long drawn the attention of researchers and scholars.

Karnataka considers Chitradurga for its first Tribal Culture University to preserve heritage

"Documenting these communities' lives and traditions would require a dedicated tribal university

–Dr Meerasabihalli Shivanna, folk scholar

In recent years, PhD programs focusing on tribal communities such as the Kadugollas and Miyas have taken root in the region. These programs explore tribal cultural practices, including their traditional songs and folklore. The study of tribal languages, customs, and heritage continues to be a central academic focus.

Despite modern-day challenges, these communities have managed to preserve their cultural identities. Rituals, customs, and traditional values remain deeply embedded in their everyday lives, even as they navigate contemporary pressures. This resilience highlights the urgent need to preserve, document, and promote tribal ways of life before they fade into obscurity.

Dr Meerasabihalli Shivanna, a noted folk scholar, emphasised the importance of studying the unique religious symbols, deities, and cultural traditions of these tribal groups. He noted that such documentation calls for a dedicated university equipped to carry forward this vital work.

24 students score 100

The National Testing Agency (NTA) announced the results of the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Main 2025 Paper 1 (B.E./B.Tech) on Saturday, with 24 candidates achieving a perfect 100 percentile. This year's JEE Main was conducted in two sessions – January and April – drawing a massive turnout. A total of 15,39,848 candidates registered across both sessions, with 14,75,103 appearing for the exam. In January, 13,11,544 registered, while 12,58,136 appeared. The April session saw 10,61,840 registrants and 9,92,350 takers. The computer-based exam was held in 13 languages across 300 cities, including 15 international locations such as Dubai, Singapore, Doha, and Washington DC. Rajasthan topped with seven 100 percentile scorers, followed by Maharashtra and Telangana with four each. Other states represented include Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat, Delhi, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh. **–BMB**

Man versus machine

China pits humanoid robots against humans in half-marathon

E-Town Half Marathon & Humanoid Robot Half Marathon in Beijing

Twenty-one humanoid robots joined thousands of runners at the Yizhuang half-marathon in Beijing on Saturday, the first time these machines have raced alongside humans over a 21-km (13-mile) course.

The robots from Chinese manufacturers such as DroidUP and Noetix Robotics came in all shapes and sizes, some shorter than 120 cm (3.9 ft), others as tall as 1.8 m (5.9 ft). One company boasted that its robot looked almost human, with feminine features and the ability to wink and smile.

Some firms tested their robots for weeks before the race. Beijing officials have described the event as more akin to a race car competition, given the need for engineering and navigation teams. "The robots are running very well, very stable ... I feel I'm witnessing the evolution of robots and AI," said spectator He Sishu, who works in artificial intelligence. The robots were accompanied by human trainers, some of whom had to physically support the machines during the race.

A few of the robots wore running shoes, with one donning boxing gloves and another wearing a red headband with the words "Bound to Win" in Chinese. The winning robot was Tiangong Ultra, from the Beijing Innovation Center of Human Robotics, with a time of 2 hours and 40 minutes. The men's winner of the race had a time of 1 hour and 2 minutes.

A few of the robots wore running shoes, with one donning boxing gloves and another wearing a red headband with the words "Bound to Win" in Chinese

The centre is 43% owned by two state-owned enterprises, while tech giant Xiaomi's robotics arm and leading Chinese humanoid robot firm UBTech have equal share in the rest.

Tang Jian, chief technology officer for the robotics centre, said Tiangong Ultra's performance was aided by long legs and an algorithm allowing it to imitate how humans run a marathon. "I don't want to boast but I think no other robotics firms in the West have matched Tiangong's sporting achievements," Tang said, adding that the robot switched batteries just three times during the race.

Some robots struggle

Some robots, like Tiangong Ultra, completed the race, while others struggled from the beginning. One robot fell at the starting line and lay flat for a few minutes before getting up and taking off. One crashed into a railing after running a few metres, causing its human operator to fall over. Although humanoid robots have made appearances at marathons in China over the past year, this is the first time they have raced alongside humans. China is hoping that investment in frontier industries like robotics can help create new engines of economic growth. Some analysts, though, question whether having robots enter marathons is a reliable indicator of their industrial potential. Alan Fern, professor of computer science, artificial intelligence and robotics at Oregon State University, said contrary to claims from Beijing officials that such a race requires "AI breakthroughs", the software enabling humanoid robots to run was developed and demonstrated more than five years ago. "Chinese companies have really focused on showing off walking, running, dancing, and other feats of agility. "Generally, these are interesting demonstrations, but they don't demonstrate much regarding the utility of useful work or any type of basic intelligence," Fern said.

-Reuters

Look forward to visit India this year: Elon Musk

Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk on Saturday said that it was an honour to speak with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and he is looking forward to visiting India later this year.

The billionaire industrialist and PM Modi earlier discussed various issues, including an immense potential for collaboration in the areas of technology and innovation.

"It was an honour to speak with PM Modi. I am looking forward to visiting India later this year," posted Musk on his X social media platform.

PM Modi on Friday held a discussion with Tesla CEO on a range of topics.

"Spoke to Elon Musk and talked about various issues, including the topics we covered during our meeting in Washington DC earlier this year. We discussed the immense potential for collaboration in the areas of technology and innovation. India remains committed to advancing our partnerships with the US in these domains," PM Modi said on X.

File photo of Elon Musk's meeting with PM Narendra Modi in February

The Prime Minister had met Musk in Washington during his visit to the US in February this year.

"Had a very good meeting with Elon Musk in Washington DC. We discussed various issues, including those he is passionate about such as space, mobility, technology and innovation. I talked about India's efforts towards reform and furthering 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance," PM Modi had stated on X after the meeting.

In another post, PM Modi shared glimpses of his candid moments with Musk's children, captioning it, "It was also a delight to meet Mr. Elon Musk's family and to talk about a wide range of subjects!"

PM Modi's conversation with Musk comes at a time when Tesla is reportedly poised to enter the Indian market.

The development also comes against the backdrop of ongoing negotiations for a bilateral trade agreement between India and the United States.

Union Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal, also held a meeting with top executives of Musk's Starlink in Delhi this week to discuss the company's investment plans for India.

—IANS

BITS & BYTES

Online booking fraud alert

The Centre on Saturday alerted the public about online booking frauds, especially those targeting pilgrims and tourists across the country.

The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), under the Ministry of Home Affairs, said such frauds are being perpetrated through fake websites, deceptive social media pages, Facebook posts and paid advertisements on search engines like Google.

These scams involve the creation of professional-looking but fake websites and social media profiles and WhatsApp accounts offering services such as: helicopter booking for Kedarnath and Chaar Dhaam; guest house and hotel booking for pilgrims; online cab/taxi service bookings; and holiday packages and religious tours.

-IANS

Autos: Smart & safe future

The automobile industry is heading for a major transformation by 2030, driven by growing demand for safety features, electric vehicles, and smart technologies, according to a recent report by NITI Aayog. One of the key highlights of the report is the sharp rise in the adoption of Advanced Driver-Assistance Systems (ADAS). The report highlighted that these features, which help drivers stay safer on the road, were present in 42 per cent of new vehicles sold in 2020. However, their presence is expected to grow rapidly and touch 90% of new vehicle sales by 2030.

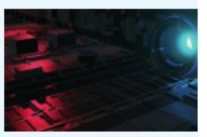
Another major trend mentioned by the report is the rise of autonomous or self-driving technologies. In 2020, less than 1 per cent of vehicles had such features, but the report projects that more than 30 per cent of vehicles could be equipped with some level of autonomous driving capability by 2030.

-ANI

Fast-breeder reactor soon

India's first prototype fast-breeder reactor in Tamil Nadu's Kalpakkam is expected to be commissioned next year, nearly two years after it got the go-ahead from the nuclear regulator, officials have said.

The commissioning of the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) will mark the second stage of India's three-stage nuclear programme that aims to recycle spent fuel to reduce the inventory of radioactive waste.



The PFBR being developed in Kalpakkam is the first-of-its-kind nuclear reactor to use plutonium-based mixed oxide as fuel and liquid sodium as coolant. It will also utilise the spent fuel of Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors, which form the mainstay of nuclear power in India at present.

-PTI

Netizens take to socials to flag urban gaps

Bengaluru Police Commissioner took to social media for live chat, with netizens highlighting traffic problems, road safety, and women's safety concerns; Commissioner assures improved enforcement and infrastructure solutions

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In a first-of-its-kind initiative aimed at strengthening community policing, Bengaluru City Police Commissioner B Dayananda went live on YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram on Saturday afternoon, directly interacting with citizens in a unique digital outreach with the hashtag "#AskCPBlr" The interactive session drew thousands of Bengalureans, where traffic-related concerns dominated the conversation.

In the interaction session, traffic-related concerns dominated the conversation, with citizens voicing frustrations about everything from lane indiscipline to rash driving by water tankers. While issues such as women's safety, street crime, and rowdyism were also discussed, the lack of traffic lane discipline emerged as the primary topic of concern.

Ranjith Rajan, a citizen, raised pertinent questions regarding the operation of BMTC and KSRTC buses. "Why aren't bus drivers given proper guidelines about which lanes to use and the designated bus stops? Their haphazard halts cause unnecessary congestion," he said. Another citizen, Abhi Jain, called for stricter penalties against wrong-side driving. "It's a serious safety threat, especially in areas like Whitefield and ORR service lanes. Strict fines and installation of surveillance cameras at all major junctions are needed," he urged.

Lane misuse by slow-moving vehicles was also a key grievance. "Tipper trucks and autos are using fast lanes and creating traffic bottlenecks. How can we stop them from entering lanes meant for faster vehicles?" asked Sunil, another citizen.

Responding to the concerns, the Police Commissioner acknowledged that lane indiscipline is a major issue across Bangalore and the country. "Unfortunately, many road users are unaware of the importance of staying in the correct lane. This worsens the already existing traffic woes," he said. He added that the matter was recently discussed in a road safety meeting attended by multiple agencies, including BBMP, RTO, and the National Highway Authority.

"We are focusing on introducing strict lane discipline on roads like the New Airport Road and NICE Road as pilot zones. Heavy vehicles and goods autos often block fast lanes, causing major delays. We aim to create awareness and ensure better enforcement," the Commissioner stated.

The Commissioner assured 24/7 Hoysala patrols, responsive helpline 112

> **"Why aren't bus drivers given proper guidelines about which lanes to use and designated bus stops? Their haphazard halts cause congestion**
>
> –Ranjith R, citizen

In response to a question about the traffic bottlenecks at Hebbal Flyover, the Commissioner confirmed the problem. "Yes, Hebbal has serious traffic congestion. Multiple infrastructure projects are underway by BDA and other agencies. We are deploying additional manpower and senior officers at the junction, especially during peak hours. The real solution lies in the timely completion of these projects," he said.

On the issue of rash driving by water tankers, especially during the ongoing summer water crisis, the Commissioner said, "We're aware that some water tankers are driving negligently and even under the influence of alcohol. We have launched special drives with the RTO department to address this."

While traffic concerns took centre stage, other issues such as women's safety and neighbourhood security were also discussed. Referring to a recent incident in SG Palya, citizens raised concerns about women's safety during late hours. Another resident, Sawan Kumar, said, "People gather to drink and smoke. It's dark and unsafe. Regular patrolling is needed."

Assuring the public, the Commissioner said, "Safety is a top priority—not just for women, but for every citizen in Bangalore. We have around 250 Hoysala patrol vehicles operating 24/7. The emergency helpline 112 is highly responsive. Additionally, features like 'Safe Connect' on the KSP App offer audio-visual interaction with our command centre in times of distress."

Additionally, the public used the opportunity to raise concerns, ask questions, and appreciate the department's efforts, marking a significant step toward bridging the gap between the police force and the public through transparency and tech-driven engagement. During the interaction, Commissioner B Dayananda noted that while similar initiatives had been attempted in the past, there had been a gap in continuity. "We're now trying to reconnect with the online community—not just on YouTube, but also through Instagram and Facebook, bringing all three platforms together. You could call this an experiment to explore new ways of engaging with the public," he said.

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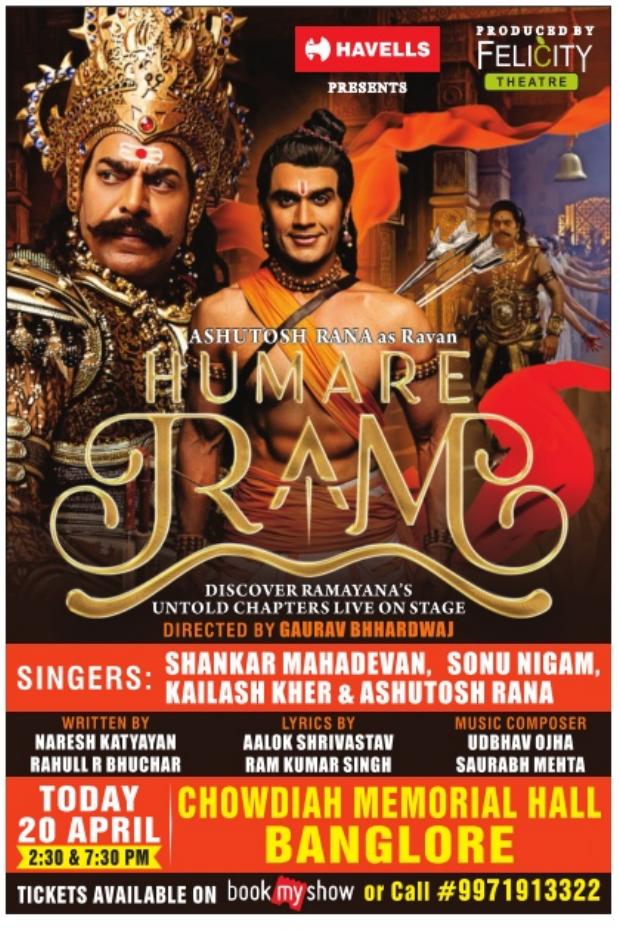

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Study finds vegetation cover is must for butterflies

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

also looked at the abundance of flowering trees and shrubs in the area.

BUC researchers say that while the campus currently is rich in butterfly diversity, it is essential to maintain suitable vegetation on campus to preserve them. Conserving plants and trees supports butterfly feeding and breeding activities, ensuring their survival. To sustain butterfly and insect biodiversity, host plants such as trees, shrubs, herbs, climbers, and stem parasites should not be removed. Adhering to these conservation practices will enhance the campus environment and contribute to the protection of these species

"We found a strong connection between butterfly species and environmental factors. Our study shows that vegetation cover is important to sustain butterfly species. While some species prefer shrubs, others favour trees and tall plants. A study on the species richness of butterflies on the campus was conducted in 2006. While there is not much difference in the abundance of butterflies between then and now, with many development activities being taken up on the campus, we need to be more mindful about retaining the vegetation cover," said Dr Rajashekara.

Importance and impact of climate factors such as daily relative humidity, temperature, and rainfall on the number of species and density of butterflies were also analysed.

"We recorded flowering plant species that provide nectar for butterflies, and documented the number of larval host plant trees and shrubs within the campus. The number of plants and tree density on the campus were assessed as suitable habitat for sustaining butterfly species. However, we found that abundance and richness of butterfly species are influenced by climatic characteristics of the region," added Dr Rajashekara.

Experts say that the presence of suitable food plants provides a strong foundation for nurturing butterflies on campus. However, further research on the ecology, breeding patterns, and management of butterfly species, including their microhabitats, population dynamics, host preferences, behaviours, and ecological interactions, to provide valuable insights, is the need of the hour. This knowledge can be applied to boost butterfly populations and support conservation efforts in natural habitats, they said.

This work was done under the guidance of Dr MG Venkatesha, professor, Department of Zoology, BUC.

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tender & notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

CAUTION NOTICE

Having Partition Suit in Nelamangala Senior Civil Court

OS 586/2013

[1239 II Additional Senior Civil Judge]

PETITIONER:

Siddagangamma W/O Ramanna M S.
Manniganahalli, Kudur Hobli, Magadi Talluk, Ramanagara District, Karnataka. Guddegowdanachanovalli - Village, Thymagodlu-2 Hobli, Nelamangala Talluk, Bengaluru Rural District, Karnataka.

SURVEY NO'S

1) Old Survey no 34 (New Survey no 34/2,34/3,34/5).
2) 31/4,31/10,31/6,31/2.
3) 37/15,37/16,44/3, 47/1, 44/1, 26/6,35/1,39/1.
4) 11/4A or 11/4, 11/4B or 11/5.
5) 9/3, 9/4
6) Isuvanahalli - Village, Thymagodlu - 2 Hobli, Nelamangala Talluk, Bengaluru Rural District, Karnataka. Survey No 110/3.

Above mentioned survey nos land having partition suit in above mentioned Court.

We are requested public to not to buy the above land from respondents. In case any one deals with the above said, they would doing so at their own risk and cost, in respect of the properties.

Sd/- **SIDDAGANGAMMA**
Petitioner
Mobile: 9945699330

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Navaneet Manohar Ainapur R/o 17, Golecha Nivas, 1st Main, Sripuram Bengaluru 560020 have changed my minor son name from Manooneet to Manooneet Navaneet Ainapur Affidavit Dt.19/04/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Blessy Sajan R/O No 19/47, Lakshmipura, cross, Kalathur Garden, Vidyaranyapura, Blr-560097 changed my name from Blessy.J to Blessy Sajan for all future purposes.(J full form is John).

I, Ramdas Shenoy Achutha Shenoy S/o Achutha Shenoy R/o 58, 2nd cross, Balaji Enclave, Hurali Chikkanahalli, Chikkabanavara Bengaluru 560090 have changed my name to Ramdas Shenoy Affidavit Dt.19/04/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Navaneeth Manohar Ainapur S/o Manohar Umakanth Ainapur R/o 17, Golecha Nivas, 1st Main, Sripuram Bengaluru 560020 have changed my name to Navaneet Manohar Ainapur Affidavit Dt.19/04/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Kottramma Gowder w/o G Shekharappa R/o Ganesha Nilaya, Halladakeri, Sungar street, Harihara, Davangere 577601 present camp at Bengaluru have changed my name to Kotramma Kotrappa Affidavit 19/04/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Sanjana Ainapur D/o Navaneet Manohar Ainapur R/o 17, Golecha Nivas, 1st Main, Sripuram Bengaluru 560020 have changed my name to Sanjana Navaneet Ainapur Affidavit Dt.19/04/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Vijayanarasimha Besagarahalli Shankarashastry S/o Besagarahalli Narayanasastry Shankarasastry R/o 31/236, 5th cross,Suprajanagara. Konanakunte, Bengaluru 560062 have changed my name to Vijayanarasimha Besagarahalli Shankarasastry. I Shall be called by this name for all purpose

I, Vasudeva K N s/o Narasimhaih residing at Flat no. 114, Mars Mount Apartments, Sapthagiri Layout, Hosakerehalli, Bangalore - 560085. I hereby declare that my names "VASUDEVA K N", "VASUDEVA K" and "VASUDEVA HEBBAR" pertain to me only vide Affidavit dated 12.01.2018 sworn before Notary D.S. Chandrakanth, Bangalore

I, Sneha Ainapur w/o Navaneet Manohar Ainapur R/o 17, Golecha Nivas, 1st Main, Sripuram Bengaluru 560020 have changed my name to Sneha Navaneet Ainapur Affidavit Dt.19/04/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Shresti Dhillon w/o Rishabh Sharma R/o A603, Alpine Fiesta Road, Hoodi Main Road, Bengaluru 560048 have changed my name to Shreshti Dhillon Affidavit 18/04/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Shreedhar S/o Mahadevappa R/O Opp Keb Grid,Bireshwar Navanagar,3rd Cross, Ranebennur,Haveri 581115 KA have changed my name to Shridhar Mahadevappa Somanahalli For All Purposes.

I, Arav Nanjappa S/o Anil Annaiah R/o #08, JMJ Apts,100 Ft Road,275 Defence Clny, Indiranagar, Bengaluru 560038 have changed my name to Arav Nanjapa for all purposes.

I, Ayesha Taj, R/at No.52, Giddappanahalli, Sulebele, Bangalore Rural - 562129 Have Changed My Name to Yasmeen Taj, For All Purposes.

I, PHALGUNI, D/o. K Panduranga Shenoy, residing at 268, 9th Main, RBI Layout, J.P Nagar 7th Phase, Bengaluru-560078, have changed my name to PHALGUNI SHENOY, vide affidavit dated 10.04.2025, sworn before notary T.V Govindappa, Bangalore.

I, Raghavendra Shivamallappa R/o Flat.12, Platinum City G-Block, Hmt road Yeshwantpura Bengaluru 560022 have changed my minor daughter name from Moulya Ragavendra Gowda to Moulya Raghavendra Gowda Affidavit Dt.19/04/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

THE TIMES OF INDIA

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HEALTH TIP: Bananas are packed with potassium, a mineral that helps regulate blood pressure and supports heart function

Coconut water is nature's electrolyte that helps replenish lost fluids in the body and helps cool your system from within

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EASTER, DONE RIGHT

Let's toast to spring and second chances with these delicious bites

CLASSIC HOT CROSS BUNS

INGREDIENTS
For the Dough:
- All-purpose flour- 500g
- Caster sugar- 75g
- Instant yeast- 7g
- Cinnamon- 1 tsp
- Nutmeg- 1/2 tsp
- Salt- 1/2 tsp
- Warm milk- 250ml
- Large egg- 1
- Unsalted butter (softened)- 50g
- Mixed dried fruit (like raisins, sultanas, currants)- 150g
- Zest of 1 orange (optional)

For the Cross
- All-purpose flour- 75g
- Water- 5–6 tbsp

For the Glaze
- Apricot jam or honey- 2 tbsp

METHOD
- Make the dough: In a large bowl, mix flour, sugar, yeast, spices, and salt. In a separate bowl, combine warm milk, egg, and butter. Add wet mixture to dry and knead into a soft dough. Knead for about 10 minutes until smooth.
- Add the fruit: Gently knead in the dried fruits and orange zest. Place the dough in a greased bowl, cover, and let it rise for 1 to 1.5 hours until doubled in size.
- Shape the buns: Divide the dough into 12 equal pieces. Shape into buns and place on a greased or parchment-lined tray, close together but not touching. Cover and let rise again for 30–45 minutes.
- Make the cross paste: Mix flour and water to form a pipeable paste. Fill into a piping bag and pipe crosses over the buns.
- Bake for 20 to 25 minutes until golden brown, at 180°C (350°F) in a preheated oven.
- Warm the jam or honey and brush over the buns while still hot for a glossy finish.

EASTER BUNNY CHOCOLATE CAKE

INGREDIENTS
- Butter softened- 225g
- Caster sugar- 225g
- Large eggs- 4
- Baking powder- 1 tsp
- Cocoa powder sieved - 50g
- Self-raising flour-225g
- Milk- 4 tbsp
- Garnish with bunny chocolate design- 1

Decoration:
- Bunny chocolate design cover

METHOD
- Pre heat your oven to 180C / 160C fan / gas mark 4 / 350F. Use butter or margarine to grease 2x7inch (18-cm) circular cake tins. Grease the baking paper and place a circle of it on the bottom of each tin. Beat the butter and sugar together until light and fluffy looking.
- Add one egg and beat until combined. Repeat with the other eggs, adding them in one at a time.
- Add in half the flour and fold it in gently.
- Stir in the baking powder and cocoa powder.
- Add in the remaining flour and fold in gently.
- Stir in the milk to loosen the cake batter slightly.
- Put half the mixture in each cake tin and spread the mixture evenly over the base of each tin. Level the surface with a spoon or spatula.
- Put the cake tins in the oven and cook for 20-25 minutes. When they are ready, the cakes should be pulling away slightly at the sides. To be sure they are done, push a skewer into the cake. If it comes out clean, the cake is done. If it comes out covered in mixture, pop the cake back in the oven for a few more minutes, and check again.
- When the cakes are cooked, remove them from the oven. Leave in their tins for 10 minutes, or until cool enough to handle, then turn out onto a cooling rack.
- Leave the cakes to completely cool before decorating.
- Decorating the cake with the bunny chocolate cover.

TROPICAL MANGO SHORTCAKE

INGREDIENTS
For the sponge cake
- All-purpose flour- 120g
- Baking powder- 1½ tsp
- Salt- ¼ tsp
- Large eggs (room temp)- 3
- Caster sugar- 120g
- Whole milk (warm)- 50ml
- Unsalted butter (melted)- 40g
- Vanilla extract- 1 tsp

For the whipped cream:
- Heavy cream (chilled)- 300g
- Icing sugar- 40g
- Vanilla extract- ½ tsp

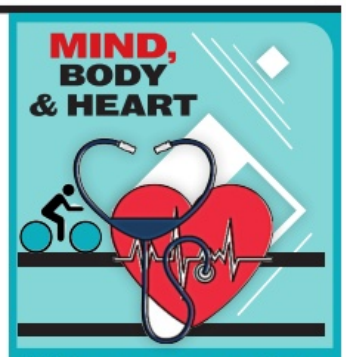
For the mango filling:
- Ripe Alphonso or Kesar mangoes- 2 (total 400g)
- Sugar (optional, depending on sweetness)- 1 tbsp
- Lemon juice - 1 tsp

Optional soak:
- Mango juice or syrup (to brush the layers)- 50ml

METHOD
- Let's start with the sponge – the soft foundation of this dream.
- Preheat your oven to 175°C (fan off). Grease and line a 7- or 8-inch round cake tin.
- In a bowl, sift together flour, baking powder, and salt. Set it aside—it'll wait patiently.
- Now, in a stand mixer or using a hand beater, whisk the eggs and sugar on high speed until the mixture becomes pale, thick, and triples in volume (around 5–7 minutes). You should be able to draw lazy figure 8s on the surface.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

(Recipe by- Chef Ravi Rawat, Assistant Pastry Chef, Sheraton Grand Bengaluru Whitefield Hotel and Convention Center)



All you need to know about...

Signs of unhealthy heart

1. Chest Discomfort
Patients often describe chest discomfort as uneasiness, heaviness, tightness, or squeezing pain, particularly during exertion. It might spread to the neck, back, or shoulders and is sometimes accompanied by sweating.

2. Breathlessness
Persistent breathlessness or sudden difficulty in breathing especially during activities such as climbing stairs, or even while lying down, might suggest heart failure and require urgent intervention.

3. Palpitations
A heart rate below 50 or above 120 beats per minute might warrant immediate evaluation.

4. Syncope or Dizziness
Transient loss of consciousness or sudden dizziness, especially during exertion or while lying down, might suggest a heart-related issue such as heart valve disease, arrhythmias, or structural problems.

5. Fatigue
Fatigue that sets in quickly during activities, especially those you could once do with ease, could signal heart failure or valve issues. If daily tasks such as dressing or walking become exhausting, it's time to consult a cardiologist.

6. Edema
Swelling in the lower limbs or generalised body swelling due to fluid retention might indicate heart failure.

7. Cold Sweats
Unexplained cold sweats, with or without chest pain, can be the only sign of a heart attack or heart failure.

8. Persistent Cough
A chronic cough that worsens when lying down, especially with pink frothy sputum or blood, can indicate heart problems.

9. Bluish Discolouration
Bluish skin or nail discolouration indicates low oxygen levels in the blood, often pointing to a severe heart or lung problem.

10. Sudden Collapse
A sudden loss of responsiveness, no pulse, and absence of breathing could indicate cardiac arrest. Immediate cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is essential in such cases.

—Femina

All pumped up

Why can't I keep still after intense exercise?

Do you ever feel like you can't stop moving after you've pushed yourself exercising?

Maybe you find yourself walking around in circles when you come off the pitch, or squatting and standing and squatting again when you finish a run.

Sometimes the body knows what's best for us, even if we're not aware of the science.

Moving around after intense exercise actually helps the body recover faster. Here's how it works – plus a tip for if you feel exactly the opposite (and just want to lie down).

What is 'intense' exercise?

There are different ways to measure exercise intensity. One is simply how hard it feels to you, known as the "rating of perceived exertion".

This takes into account how fast you're breathing, how much you're sweating and how tired your muscles are. It also considers heart rate.

The average resting heart rate when you're not exerting yourself is around 60–80 beats per minute, although this can vary between people.

The maximum healthy heart rate is based on subtracting your age from 220. So, if you're 20 years old, that's 200 beats per minute when you're exercising as hard as you can.

This decreases as you age. If you're 50 years old, your maximum heart rate would be around 170 beats per minute.

An increased heart rate helps pump blood faster to deliver fuel and oxygen to the muscles that are working hard. Once you stop exercising your body will begin its recovery, to return to resting levels.

Let's look at how continuing to move after intense exercise helps do this.

Removing waste from the muscles

Whenever the body converts fuel into energy it also produces leftover substances, known as metabolic byproducts. This includes lactate (sometimes called lactic acid).

During intense exercise we need to burn more fuel (oxygen and glucose) and this can make the body produce lactate much more quickly than it can clear it. When lactate accumulates in the muscles it may delay their recovery.

We can reuse lactate to provide energy to the heart and brain and modulate the immune system. But to do this, lactate must be cleared from the muscles into the bloodstream.

After intense exercise, continuing to move your body – but less intensely – can help do this. This kind of active recovery has been shown to be more efficient than passive recovery (meaning you don't move).

Returning blood to the heart

Intense exercise also makes our heart pump more blood into the body. The volume pumped to the muscles increases dramatically, while blood flow to other tissues – especially the abdominal organs such as the kidneys – is reduced.

Moving after intense exercise can help redistribute the blood flow and speed up recovery of the respiratory and cardiovascular systems. This will also clear metabolic byproducts faster.

After a long run, for example, there will be much more blood in your leg muscles. If you stand still for a long time, you may feel dizzy or faint, thanks to lowered blood pressure and less blood flow to the brain.

Moving your legs, whether through stretching or walking, will help pump blood back to the heart.

In fact around 90 per cent of the blood returning from the legs via veins relies on the foot, calf and thigh muscles moving and pumping.

The calf muscle plays the largest role (about 65 per cent). Moving your heels up and down after exercising can help activate this motion.

What if you don't feel like moving?

Maybe after exercise you just want to sit down in a heap. Should you?

If you're too tired to do light movement such as stretching or walking, you may still benefit from elevating your legs.

You can lie down – research has shown blood from the veins returns more easily to the heart after exercise when you're lying down, compared to sitting up, even if you're still. Elevating your legs has an added benefit, as it reverses the effect of gravity and helps circulation.

(By Ken Nosaka, Edith Cowan University, The Conversation)

4 summer hair habits women need to ditch ASAP

Summer brings with it sunshine, outdoor activities and beachy vibes, but it's also a sneaky villain when it comes to your hair. The relentless UV rays, frizz-inducing humidity, and constant heat styling can leave your hair damaged, dry, and lifeless.

According to our expert dermatologist, Dr Sonali Kohli, one of the most common summer hair care pitfalls is both surprisingly widespread and completely avoidable. Here's her take on the most frequent warm-weather hair mistake and how to sidestep it like a pro for healthy, happy locks all season long:

1 Skipping Sun Protection for Hair

Many people remember to apply sunscreen to their skin but forget that hair and scalp need protection too,UV rays can break down the protein structure of hair, leading to color fading, brittleness, and split ends.

Solution: Invest in hair products with UV filters or wear a wide-brimmed hat when spending extended periods outdoors. Apply a leave-in conditioner with SPF protection to create a barrier between your hair and harmful rays.

2 Over-washing Due to Heat and Sweat

In summer, there's a tendency to wash hair daily due to increased sweating and oil production, This strips away natural oils, leading to dryness and irritated scalp conditions

Solution: Limit washing to 2-3 times a week and use a gentle, sulfate-free shampoo. On non-wash days, refresh your scalp with dry shampoo or a diluted apple cider vinegar rinse to balance pH levels without removing essential oils.

3 Relying Heavily on Heat Styling

Summer social events often lead to increased use of blow dryers, straighteners, and curling irons. Heat styling on already sun-exposed hair compounds damage,the combination can severely weaken hair structure.

Solution: Embrace natural air-drying and heat-free styling methods. When heat is necessary, always use a thermal protectant spray and keep tools on the lowest effective temperature setting.

4 Neglecting Deep Conditioning

Chlorine from pools, salt water, and increased environmental exposure dehydrate hair during summer months, yet many people reduce conditioning treatments when they should be increasing them.

Solution: Schedule weekly deep conditioning treatments. Look for products with ingredients like hyaluronic acid, glycerin, and natural oils to replenish moisture. Consider a professional hair mask treatment at the beginning of summer to strengthen hair before seasonal stressors.

— Femina

TROPICAL MANGO SHORTCAKE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

- In a small bowl, mix warm milk, melted butter, and vanilla extract. Gently pour this into the fluffy egg mixture.

Here's the gentle part

- Fold in the sifted flour mixture with a spatula in 3 additions. Be slow, careful, and kind—don't knock out all that air.
- Pour the batter into the tin and bake for 22–25 minutes or until golden and springy to touch. Cool in tin for 10 mins, then turn out and cool completely on a rack.
- While it cools, bring the mango magic to life.
- Peel and dice the mangoes into small cubes (save a few slices for garnish). Toss them gently with a teaspoon of lemon juice and a bit of sugar if needed.
- Optional: blitz a few pieces into a pulp for layering or brushing the cake.
- Whip up some cloud-soft cream.
- In a chilled bowl, whip the heavy cream with icing sugar and vanilla until soft peaks form. Don't over-whip—we want smooth, silky folds, not butter.
- Assembly: time to build paradise.
- Slice the cooled cake into two or three even layers, depending on your height preference.
- Optional: Brush each layer with a bit of mango juice or syrup for extra moisture. Now, spread a generous layer of whipped cream, followed by mango chunks, over the first layer. Repeat with the second (and third) if you have one.
- Cover the top with cream and decorate with mango slices or rosettes. If you're feeling fancy, add a few mint leaves or toasted coconut flakes for texture and contrast.
- Chill and Serve: Refrigerate the cake for at least 30 minutes before slicing—this helps everything set beautifully.

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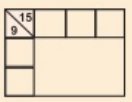
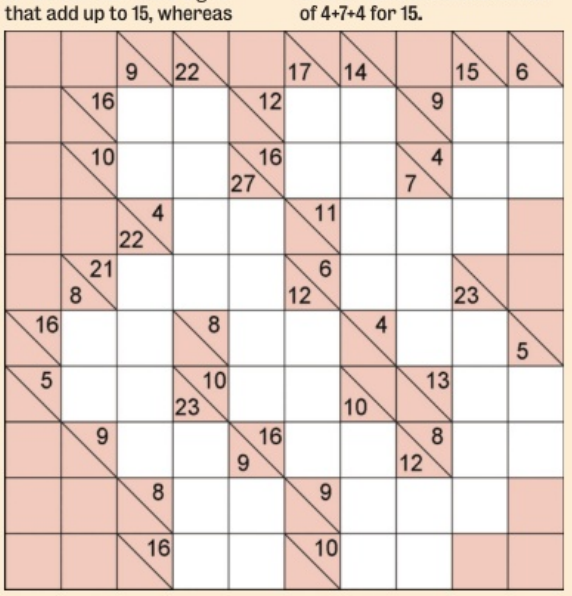
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

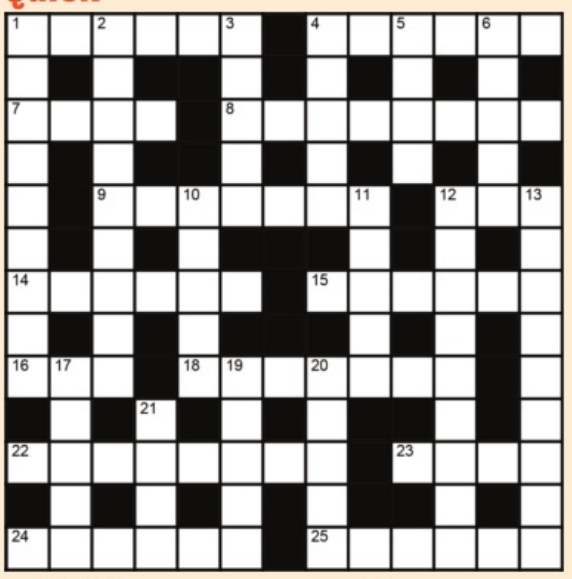


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Helicopter parts (6)
4 Edit (6)
7 Takes to court (4)
8 Hostile rant (8)
9 Idea or notion (7)
12 Roman 1200 (3)
14 Coquettes (6)
15 Practical jokes (6)
16 French article (3)
18 Small wind instrument (7)
22 Unused (5,3)
23 Soft drink (4)
24 Circus comedians (6)
25 Straight (6)

DOWN

1 Bitter or grudging (9)
2 Drama; exaggerated displays of emotion (9)
3 Cricket commentator Navjot __ (5)
4 Arrive at (5)
5 Short Scottish dagger (4)
6 Of three dimensions? (5)
10 Prefix for straight or right (5)
11 Ankle bones (5)
12 Port city in Karnataka (9)
13 Russian space traveller (9)
17 Swashbuckler Flynn (5)
19 Currency units (5)
20 Used oars (5)
21 Be aware of (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: X EQUALS G

QZ'F PJZ LSWQPX GLSZ UJA GSPZ. QZ'F GSPZQPX GLSZ UJA'WY XJZ.

Linemaro

Guess what I am wearing? The smile you gave me

Mindchow

The greatest good you can do for another is not just to share your riches, but to reveal to her her own

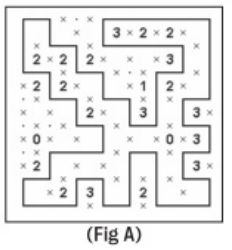
Joke of the day

I went to a record store that specialised in hard-to-find records...nothing was alphabetised

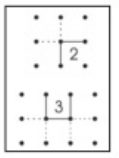
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

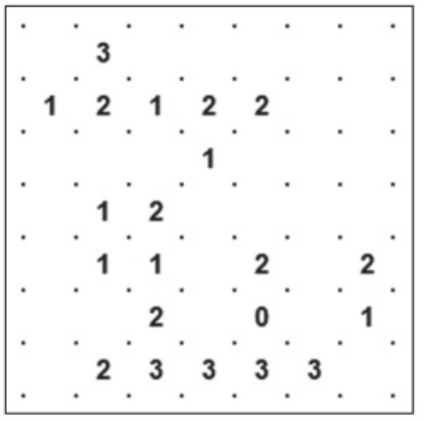


(Fig B) Not Allowed

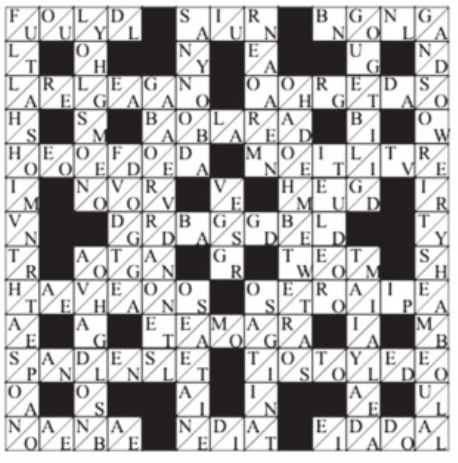
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



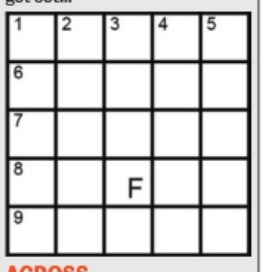
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

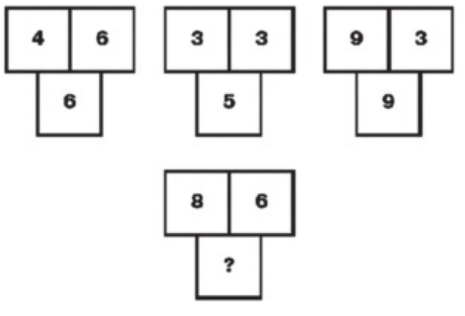
1 A boss; 6 Lip me;
7 Open I; 8 If tum;
9 In Elf

DOWN

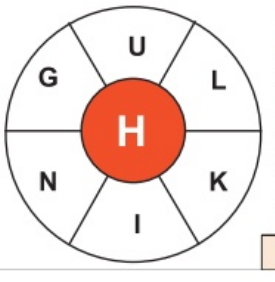
1 Me obi; 2 A lump;
3 If FPS; 4 Stein;
5 I Noel

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

03 Average; 04 Good; 05 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

			9	7		5		
	4			8			7	
7					6			
		7		9	4	6	5	
	5		1		2		9	
	9	8	5	3		4		
			3					6
	1			2			3	
		2		5	8			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 17

2 4 5 6

Medium = 12

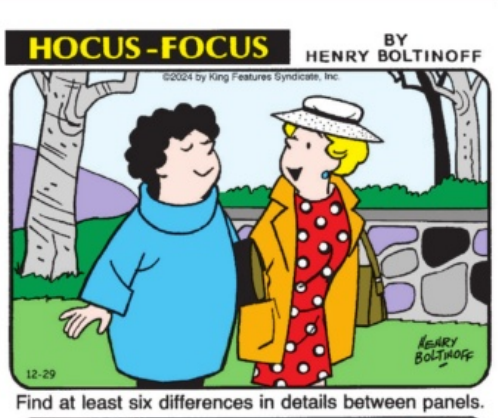
2 3 3 4

Hard = 1

3 4 5 7

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

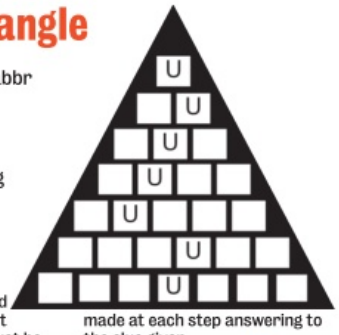
Differences: 1. Arm is longer. 2. Neck is longer. 3. Handbag is lower. 4. Dress collar is added. 5. Bush is different. 6. Hair is different.

Riddler

Debbie starts driving her dragster from rest and constantly accelerates to 60 mph in 10 seconds. How far does she travel in those 10 seconds?

Alpha triangle

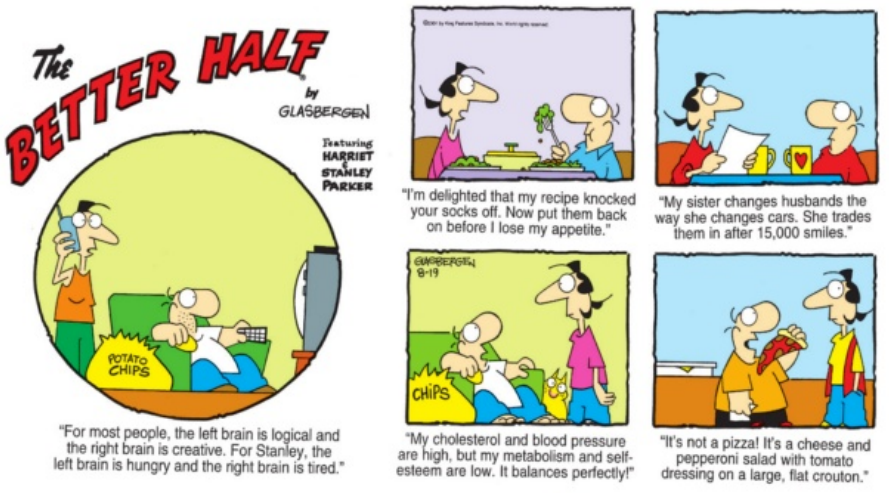
1 Uranium symbol
2 Delhi University abbr
3 Owing
4 Sand hill
5 Dolt
6 Fertile, prolific
7 No longer existing

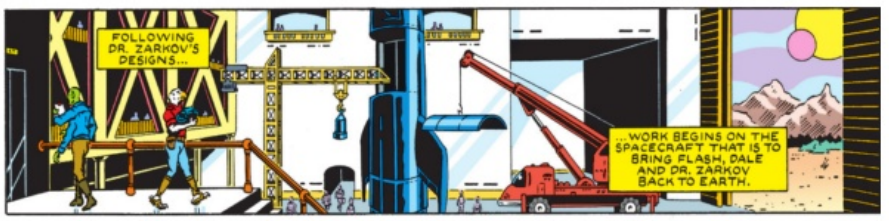


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
POTATO CHIPS
"For most people, the left brain is logical and the right brain is creative. For Stanley, the left brain is hungry and the right brain is tired."
"I'm delighted that my recipe knocked your socks off. Now put them back on before I lose my appetite."
"My sister changes husbands the way she changes cars. She trades them in after 15,000 smiles."
CHIPS
"My cholesterol and blood pressure are high, but my metabolism and self-esteem are low. It balances perfectly!"
"It's not a pizza! It's a cheese and pepperoni salad with tomato dressing on a large, flat crouton."



FLASH GORDON
BY JIM KEEFE
AS THE SPACECRAFT IS BEING BUILT, DR. ZARKOV PAINSTAKINGLY CHARTS THE COURSE NEEDED TO GET BACK TO EARTH.
HOW GOES IT, DOC?
IF I'VE PLOTTED THIS CORRECTLY, WE HAVE A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY WITHIN THE WEEK.
WILL WE HAVE ENOUGH FUEL?
NOT TO WORRY. MONGO'S RADIUM-X IS THE RICHEST ENERGY SOURCE KNOWN.
I'M JUST SORRY WE CAN'T SUPPLY YOU WITH ANY SURPLUS TO BRING BACK TO EARTH. THE DEMAND FAR EXCEEDS THE SUPPLY. THESE DAYS, I'M AFRAID.
NO PROBLEM, BARIN. YOU'VE DONE MORE THAN ENOUGH ALREADY.
MEANWHILE, IN A SECRET CHAMBER FAR BENEATH THE PALACE...
DOES THE WORK GO AS PLANNED?
YES...BUT WHAT YOU ASK IS FORBIDDEN!
4-30
YOU WILL DO AS I SAY.
BUT...
SNG!
YES... AS YOU SAY!
NEXT: CATASTROPHE!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
You're blessed by the Moon today, enabling you to initiate new business plans. Support from colleagues will help in implementing them efficiently. Stuck payments may be recovered, improving cash flow. However, anxiety could arise in the evening, potentially affecting your sleep.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
It's a positive day for business and relationships. New clients may bring increased profits. Singles might meet a promising match. In personal matters, be transparent with your spouse to avoid misunderstandings. Job seekers may find good opportunities, and promotions are possible for those employed.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You may feel drawn to spirituality. A visit to a sacred place or charitable activity can bring peace of mind. Your willingness to offer emotional or financial support to others will bring a deep sense of fulfillment and serenity throughout the day.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Lack of motivation may impact your mood today. Stay focused and avoid impulsive spending. Manage your temper, especially in romantic relationships. Lovebirds should steer clear of conflicts. It's best to avoid overnight travel and return home safely.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Inner peace is your priority today. Thanks to the Moon's blessing, you'll regain clarity and focus. Avoid making property investments for now. Joyful moments at home are likely, but keep ego and arrogance in check to maintain harmony, especially with your spouse. Business partner disputes may be resolved.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
You'll gain the upper hand over competitors and hidden enemies. Legal matters may swing in your favor. Recognition from superiors is possible, potentially leading to promotions or new responsibilities. Singles may meet someone with long-term potential.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Your strong professional network could help implement business plans effectively. Wisdom and experience will guide profitable decisions. At home, harmony prevails, and mutual understanding with your spouse adds to emotional stability.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Health issues may lead to irritability today. Be cautious with spending and avoid unnecessary purchases. In relationships, steer clear of petty arguments, especially if you're in a new or fragile romantic bond—misunderstandings may escalate.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
The Moon brings good luck and renewed energy. You'll remain focused and productive, with support from subordinates easing your workload. A short work trip could arise, and positive news from a sibling is possible. Renovation plans at home or work may showcase your creativity.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
A joyful day lies ahead. Investments in creative or lifestyle-enhancing items are likely. Quality time with friends and family will lift your spirits. Singles may meet someone new, and couples will enjoy affectionate moments together.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
You'll successfully control unnecessary expenses, improving your savings. Creativity comes naturally, benefiting both home and work life. Lovebirds may gain support from family and friends, particularly regarding marriage plans.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
You may feel unsatisfied or emotionally drained today. Focus on balancing income and expenses. Avoid overworking or engaging in excessive travel—it may affect your health. Students should begin planning for higher education. Couples are advised to avoid arguments over trivial matters.

KIDZONE

Nishk, Bengaluru

BV Raj, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER 1/12 mile. Ten seconds is 1/6 of a minute and 1 minute is 1/60 of an hour, so 10 seconds is 1/360 of an hour. If you graph her trip with the speed on the y-axis and the time on the x-axis, you get a triangle with height of 60 mph and width of 1/360 of an hour. To calculate the area of the triangle, you multiply 1/2 × 1/360 × 0 = 1/12.

QUOTE UNCODE It's not having what you want. It's wanting what you've got.

B	A	S	S	O				
I	M	P	E	L				
O	P	I	N	E				
M	U	F	T	I				
E	L	F	I	N				

FAST FIVE
0.3 * 0.2 = 0.06
0.06 * 0.4 = 0.024

SOLVE IN 1M
hunk, HULKING, hung, hunk, nigh

BULL'S EYE

F	U	L	L	S	I	R	B	O
L	O	Y	E	U	N			
A	E	G	E	A	N	A	O	R
S	S	B	O	A	R	D	B	W
H	O	O	D	E	D	M	O	T
I	N	O	R	E	M	U	D	R
T	A	G	A	G	T	O	M	H
N	D	R	A	G	G	E	D	T
F	L	I	R	T	S	P	R	A
U	C	H	S	G	M			
L	E	S	O	C	A	R	I	N
B	R	K	E	O	L	N		
B	R	A	N	D	N	E	W	S
E	H	O	U	G	H	T	M	C
N	T	H	O	U	G	H	T	I
T	R	R	A	A	O			
S	U	E	S	D	I	A	T	R
R	O	T	O	R	S	R	E	D

QUICK

C	L	O	W	N	S	D	I	R
O	O	T	E	R	U			
B	A	N	D	C	O	L	A	
R	K	E	O	L	N			
L	E	S	O	C	A	R	I	N
U	C	H	S	G	M			
F	L	I	R	T	S	P	R	A
T	R	R	A	A	O			
N	T	H	O	U	G	H	T	M
E	A	H	C	K	I			
S	U	E	S	D	I	A	T	R
H	I	E	I	U				
R	O	T	O	R	S	R	E	D

MENSA PUZZLE
11. Starting with the diagram in the top left, and moving to the right, ending up with the bottom two boxes in the diagram, average the values in the top two boxes and put the result in the lower box, adding 1 for the first diagram, 2 for the next, then 3, then 4.

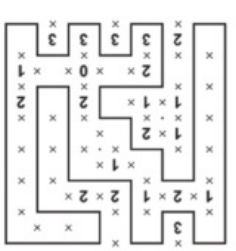
SUDOKU

2	8	1	9	7	3	5	6	4
9	4	6	2	8	5	3	7	1
7	3	5	4	1	6	9	2	8
1	2	7	8	9	4	6	5	3
4	5	3	1	6	2	8	9	7
6	9	8	5	3	7	4	1	2
5	7	9	3	4	1	2	8	6
8	1	4	6	2	9	7	3	5
3	6	2	7	5	8	1	4	9

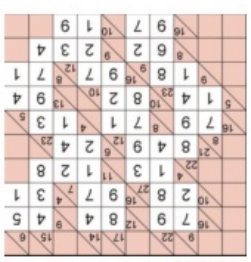
ALPHA TRIANGLE
U, DU, Due, Dune, Dunce, fecund, Defunct.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 + 5 + 2 + 6 = 17
Medium
3 / 3 + 2 x 4 = 12
Hard
3 – 5 – 4 + 7 = 1

LOOP



KAKURO



Volume No 18, Issue No 016 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/22325 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

Bailed
Malayalam actor Shine Tom Chacko granted bail in alleged drug use

FIRST JOB

Celebs' shocking before-fame jobs

Many actors did not take up acting as their first professions. Before they became famous with films, some of them had regular jobs. These actors have literally worked their way up the ladder of fame. We take a look at few of the famous names and their not so famous beginnings. —ETimes

Priyanka Chopra

Before becoming a global icon, Priyanka Chopra had a very different career trajectory in mind. She was enrolled in engineering at the Lajpat Nagar College in Delhi and was even a software engineer. However, her beauty and talent led her to the Miss India pageant, and from there, she went on to win Miss World in 2000, which turned her focus to acting.

John Abraham

John Abraham had a career in the corporate world before entering Bollywood. He worked as a media planner and also held a job at a marketing firm. But his true passion lay in acting and modeling, and after making his debut in Jism, John moved on to become one of Bollywood's top stars, known for his acting and physique.

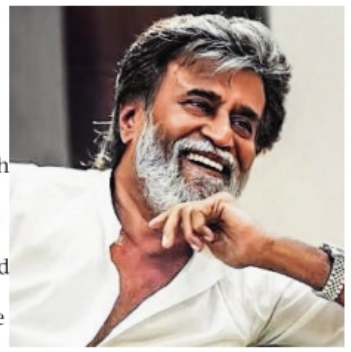
Hrithik Roshan

Before Hrithik Roshan became a heartthrob in Bollywood, he started his career behind the scenes. Hrithik worked as an assistant director on films like Karan Arjun and Koyla, which were directed by his father, Rakesh Roshan. He was initially interested in filmmaking, but his career took a major turn when he made his acting debut in Kaho Na Pyaar Hai, which made him an overnight sensation.

Bipasha Basu

Before she became a Bollywood bombshell, Bipasha Basu worked as a telemarketer in Delhi. She has spoken about how she started out doing small jobs before being discovered by a model scout. Bipasha was initially focused on modeling, but it wasn't long before she transitioned to Bollywood and became one of the most successful actresses in the industry.

Rajinikanth



Before becoming a superstar and a household name in the Tamil film industry, Rajinikanth worked as a bus conductor in Bangalore. He had a keen interest in acting and joined the Madras Film Institute, where he trained in acting. His journey from being a bus conductor to becoming one of the most revered actors in Indian cinema is truly inspiring.

Vidya Balan

Before becoming a powerhouse performer in Bollywood, Vidya Balan worked as a radio jockey. She had a brief stint with Radio Mirchi in Mumbai, where she would host shows. Vidya initially struggled to get lead roles in films but eventually made a name for herself with remarkable performances in films like Paa, The Dirty Picture, and Kahaani.

Shah Rukh Khan

Before becoming the King of Bollywood, Shah Rukh Khan had a modest beginning. He worked as a waiter in Delhi's well-known restaurant "Mithaiwala" to earn some pocket money. He also dabbled in theatre and had small roles in TV serials, but it was his breakthrough role in Deewana that catapulted him to fame. His story is a true testament to how hard work and perseverance can transform one's life.

Sushant Singh Rajput

Sushant Singh Rajput was a talented dancer before he became an actor. He was a part of Shiamak Davar's dance troupe and performed at various events, including the 2006 Commonwealth Games. Sushant's passion for dance is what initially brought him into the entertainment world, and he transitioned to acting with TV shows before hitting the big screen with Kai Po Che!

Ayushmann Khurrana

Before making his mark in Bollywood, Ayushmann Khurrana was a popular radio jockey at Big FM. His charm and unique voice were his standout features, and he worked in Chandigarh before moving to Mumbai. He eventually made his Bollywood debut with Vicky Donor, and the rest is history. Ayushmann's success story is an inspiration for many aspiring actors and media professionals.

Colin Farrell reveals reason for putting son in care

Hollywood star Colin Farrell has revealed the heartbreaking decision to put his son James into long term care as he shared his fears for the future.

The actor, who previously shared how his son James had been misdiagnosed with cerebral palsy, revealed the heartbreaking medical error before doctors eventually confirmed James has Angelman syndrome, a rare genetic condition that affects the nervous system and causes severe physical and learning disabilities, reports mirror.co.uk.

Opening up on the decision, the Golden Globe winner shared his fears for the future if they didn't put support in place for his 21-year-old son.

"It's tricky, some parents will say 'I want to take care of my child myself' and I respect that," the actor said.

"But my horror would be... What if I have a heart attack tomorrow, and, God forbid, James' mother, Kim, has a car crash and she's taken too – and then James is on his own?" Speaking to Candis Magazine the Batman star added: "Then he's a ward of the state and he goes where? We'd have no say in it." Farrell and Kim Bordenave are looking to find somewhere for James he can go "now while we're still alive and healthy" so they can visit him and also take him out.

He shared: "We want him to find somewhere where he can have a full and happy life, where he feels connected." Last summer, the actor opened up on the impact of James' misdiagnosis. Colin said the syndrome is often misdiagnosed with cerebral palsy due to both conditions having similar symptoms. —IANS